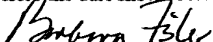


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Barbara Fisher

Date: October 21, 2005

1020 Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 OCT 2005

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PCT International Application of)

LOHBECK, Wilhelmus Christianus Maria, et al.)

Int. Appln No.: PCT/EP2004/050549)

Intl. Filing Date: 16 April 2004)

EXPANDER SYSTEM FOR STEPWISE)
EXPANSION OF A TUBULAR ELEMENT)

October 21, 2005

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Box PCT (DO/EO/US)
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

Prior to taking up the case for examination, please amend the application as follows:

Please replace the abstract with the following abstract: